# A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS March 21, 2016

A regular meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commissioners Boardroom, also known as Multi-Purpose Room 342, of the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy, North Carolina on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2016 at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: C.B. McKinnon, Chairman; Dan Eichenbaum, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Gary Westmoreland, member; and Roy Dickey, member. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board; and, Candy Anderson, County Finance Director. R. Scott Lindsay, County Attorney/Assistant Clerk to the Board was in Raleigh at an attorney conference.

Media present were the Cherokee Scout and Local TV4. DVD copies of commission meetings may be purchased at Local TV4.

The Chairman read the boards adopted ethics statement.

The invocation was given by Sheriff Palmer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by all.

Agenda Modification: None

## **Agenda Adoption:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 4, 2016. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.

# **Public Forum:**

Patrick Martin presented a petition in support of Commissioner McKinnon as a Board of Health member. Holly Christy, attorney for Towanna Roberts, was signed up to speak, but later declined.

There were no other comments during public forum.

# Finance and Budget:

- The finance director gave a financial report on the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision to replenish contingency funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of schools designated sales tax funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve Southern Software as the Sole Source Vendor for the 911 CAD system. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to pay off the debt for, and purchase, the Cherokee County Rescue Squad building in Murphy; and to release the county's lien on a 2004 Ford 550. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to accept ownership of a 2007 2500HD Chevy Duramax Truck from the Cherokee County Rescue Squad as full payment for debt

- owed in the amount of \$26,000, for a loan made to the rescue squad in 2014. The value of the 2007 2500HD Duramax is \$28,723. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve the price list for the new smoothie bar at the Hiwassee Valley Pool and Wellness Center. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.

Budget revisions are available for public inspection, in the office of the Finance Director.

### **New Business:**

- Don Reynolds, president of Friends of the Cherokee County Fair, Inc. committee, came before the board to present two proposals for a 2016 county fair. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve proposal #2 which includes contracting with Midway Rides, to offer small rides and amusement park games. The total projected cost of proposal two is \$41,430.00. Commissioner Stiles and Commissioner Westmoreland expressed approval as long as no county funding is required. Mr. Reynolds and Commissioner Eichenbaum said that sponsorships and sales will cover the cost of the fair. Commissioner Eichenbaum said that \$15,000 of the cost is for a PA system. Commissioner Westmoreland seconded the motion, emphasizing that it was with no county funding. Motion passed. Commissioner Eichenbaum thanked Mr. Reynolds for all of his hard work.
- Brannon Elliott and Sara Henson of the Cherokee County Saddle Club, came before the board to ask for approval to make improvements at the Nora Starks Horse Arena, located at the Mountain Folk Center. The 2016 proposal included ten items. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve Item 1, which will be to construct a warmup arena, understanding that it can also be used for parking during other events; and Item 2, to allow installation of additional lighting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed. The board thanked the saddle club for all of their hard work.
- Rick Lanier, co-founder of the U.S. Motto Action Committee, accompanied by his wife, came before the board to request that the board of commissioners approve placing the U.S. Motto, "In God We Trust' on the exterior of the courthouse. Mr. Lanier said that the U.S. Motto has been placed on 49 government buildings 28 town halls across the state. He said that the U.S. Motto Action Committee will cover the cost of placement. After Mr. Lanier read his statement, and after further discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to approve placing, "In God We Trust", on the exterior of the Cherokee County Courthouse. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed.
- Jeana Conley, Cherokee County Schools Superintendent, came before the board to request that the board place a ¼ cent sales tax referendum on the June ballot to fund education. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to place the referendum on the June primary ballot. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioners Westmoreland, Dickey, Stiles and Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed. Commissioner McKinnon said that he would support it on the November ballot, but not on the June ballot. Ms. Conley will be educating the community about the purpose of the referendum, and if it fails in June, will ask the board to support it on the November ballot. One quarter-cent sales tax would generate a quarter (\$0.25) on every one hundred dollars (\$100.00) spent in Cherokee County.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the Request for Tax Releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the Tax Refund Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the NCVTS Report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint Michele Spies to the Cherokee County Board of Equalization and Review, for a one-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to appoint Stephen Weaver to the Cherokee County Board of Equalization and Review, as an alternate member, for a one-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.

- The board discussed amending the current E911 Addressing Ordinance. A public hearing date was set for the commissioners April 4th regular meeting.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the 2016 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed.
- The board discussed the recent passage of the countywide alcohol referendum.

# **County Manager Items:**

- The county manager updated the board on the specifics and the options to the county, following passage of the countywide alcohol referendum. Commissioner Stiles said that he was not interested in the county opening an ABC store; other board members also agreed. The county manager then told the board that the county will be responsible for completing and approving an ABC Local Government Opinion Letter, which is one step in the alcohol permit application process. A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to designate the county manager as the authorizing official to approve the Alcohol Beverage Commission Local Government Opinion Letters for alcohol permittees. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed.
- The county manager asked the board if they were interested in selling the old bank building (former home of the N.C. Cooperative Extension offices), located on Peachtree Street, across from the County Annex. All board members agreed. The decision was made to solicit sealed bids, requiring a minimum starting bid greater than \$125,000.00.

### **Chairman/Commissioner Items:**

Commissioner Westmoreland gave an update on the east airport properties, saying that he had talked to all of the tenants, except the Martins. He said that he had attempted to visit the Martin's 4 or 5 times and was not successful. A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to give a 120-day Notice to Vacate. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed. The county attorney will draft and send notices.

### Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 o'clock p.m.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON APRIL 18, 2016